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BEN BARKA CASE IMPLICATES MOROCCAN OFFICIALS

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(Summary) Every day there are new astonishing surprises in the Ben Barka case. Every day there is a new statement by official French authorities with new evidence condemning some Moroccan officials. But, strange enough, the more evidence against these officials the more the Moroccan authorities deny and the more they come out with empty political statements to sow doubt when there is no longer any room for doubt.

Our Arab people long ago voiced their opinion and asked King Hassan to aid justice and to withhold his confidence from those who exploited this confidence. "It saddens us now to see the Moroccan authorities are increasingly defending and protecting the criminals and publicly declaring them honest and innocent of the charges leveled against them by French courts of justice. This attitude by Moroccan authorities can only have two meanings: Either the regime there is controlled by the interior minister and thus unable to take proceedings against him, or the Moroccan authorities knew about and blessed the activities of the interior minister, which we do not wish to believe."

What is more serious was yesterday's announcement by the French interior minister. "The French minister accused U.S. intelligence of planning the Ben Barka kidnaping. We did not wish to make our suspicion of American intelligence known lest we be accused of making hasty accusations and conclusions, but now that the accusation has come from the French interior minister, who is a responsible man, we do not think that this could have been mere words uttered haphazardly, especially when the matter concerns a large ally. Indeed there is no room for denial. U.S. intelligence, the calamity of modern times, planned the plot against Ben Barka and the principles and ideals for which he fought. This time it wore Moroccan and French masks and, once its diabolic scheme was implemented, it threw away both masks and wickedly watched them clash while it strengthened American and imperialist influence in Morocco."

We wonder, is King Hassan aware of the serious consequences of his attitude? Does he really believe that Oufkir can support and safeguard his throne and regime better than the people of Morocco? Do the imperialists imagine that the Arab millions will be silent if a struggling Moroccan Arab leader is successfully silenced? Punishment always pursues crime.